

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



AUGUST 2018 EW PHASE



Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Normal	Stable
National Park	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	111	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	78.28	35 - 50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Harvesting	Harvesting
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	3.1	2.8 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	147.9	82.5
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.1	0.6 Litres
Return distance to water sources	2.3	2.6 Km
Water source return distance from grazing areas	3.3	3.5 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	3.00	< Kshs 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	1.9	<3.20

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county experienced light rains in the highlands of the county. Low temperatures prevailed during the reporting period.
- The county vegetation condition index was above normal. All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Farmers completed harvesting dry maize.
- Livestock body condition was good for all species.
- Milk production per HH per day was above normal.
- Livestock migration patterns were normal.

Access Indicators

- Terms of Trade were favourable and above the normal range.
- Milk consumption per HH per day was above normal.
- Distances to water sources were below the normal range.
- Distances to water sources from grazing area were below the normal range.

Utilization Indicators

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition remained within the normal range.

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Flush floods - Taveta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ Flush floods - Taveta
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

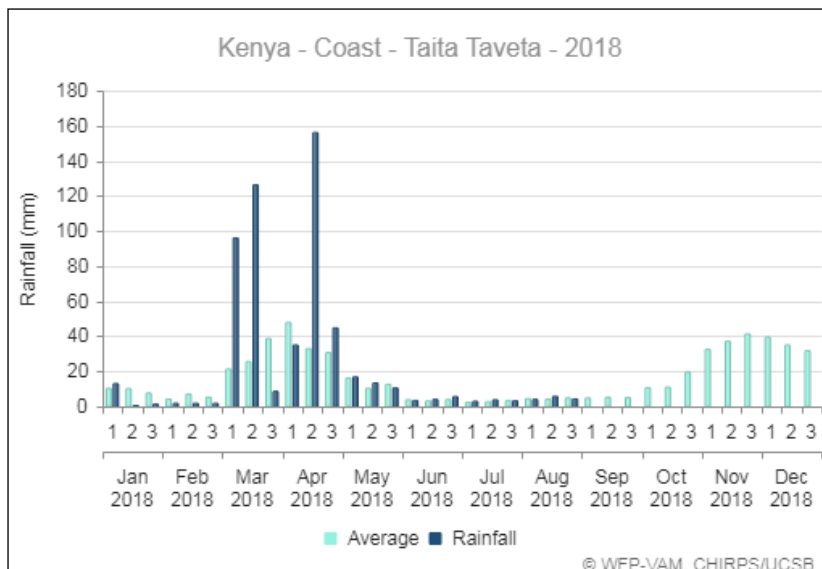
1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received light rains in the highlands while the lowlands recorded no rains.
- Low temperatures prevailed during the month under review.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- According to WFP-VAM, Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS) three months rainfall anomaly was 111%.
- Dekad one, two and three recorded 3.9 mm, 5.6 mm and 4.2 mm of rainfall amounts respectively.
- Compared to LTM dekad one and three were below by 11.4% and 10.6% while dekad two was above by 10%.
- Rainfall situation remained normal compared to the long term average.

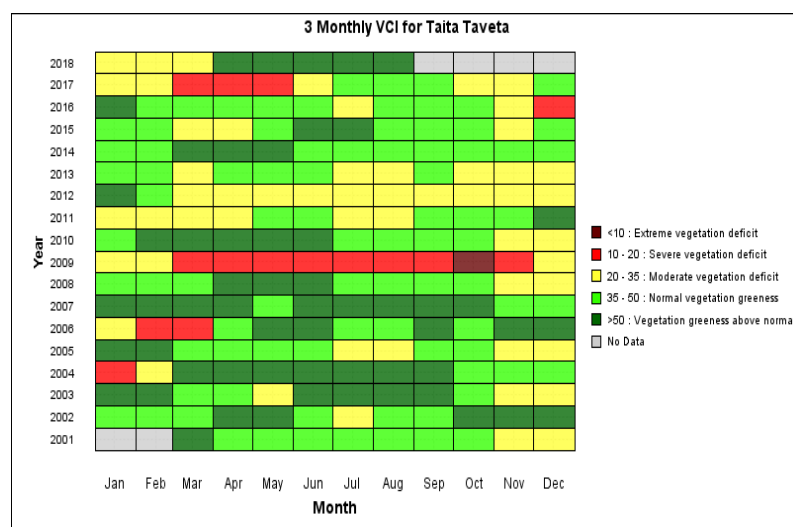


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

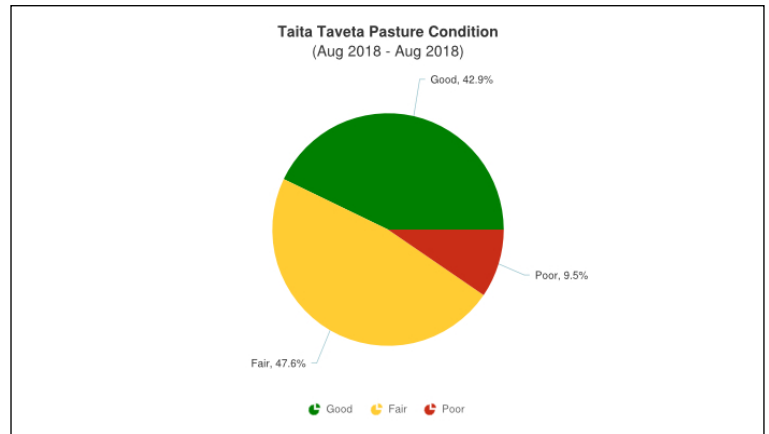
2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation condition index (VCI) was above normal as depicted by a VCI value of 78.28.
- All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.
- The current situation is attributed to above normal long rains that resulted to significant regeneration of pasture and natural vegetation compared to the previous years.



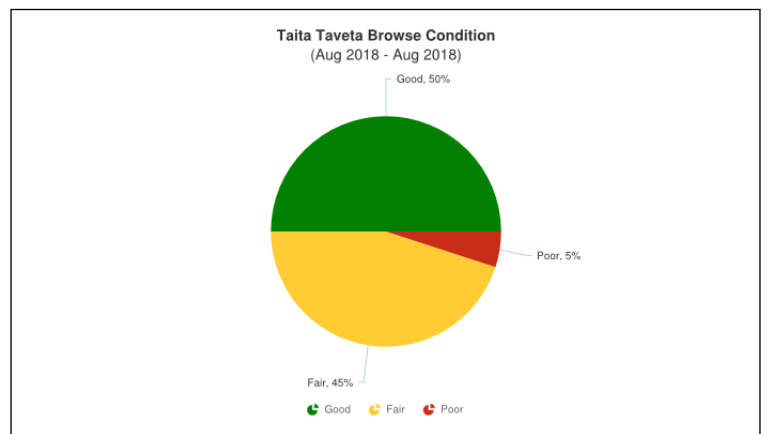
2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews conducted, 42.9%, 47.6% and 9.5% of respondents reported pasture condition was good, fair and poor respectively.
- Pasture condition has deteriorated compared to the previous month.
- However, pasture condition is above normal for this time of the year.
- Available pasture is expected to last until onset of short rains in mid October.



2.1.3 Browse

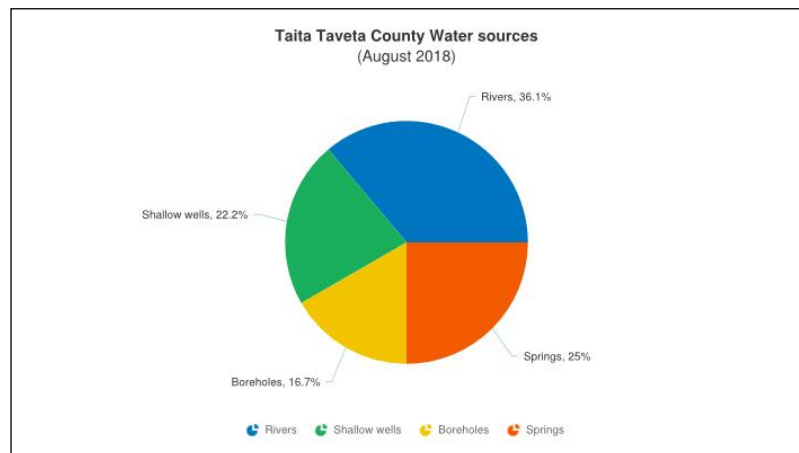
- Results from community interviews undertaken showed that 50.0%, 54.0% and 5% of respondents confirmed browse condition was in good, fair and poor conditions respectively.
- The browse situation was good compared to same season previous year.
- The available browse is expected to last for at least two months.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

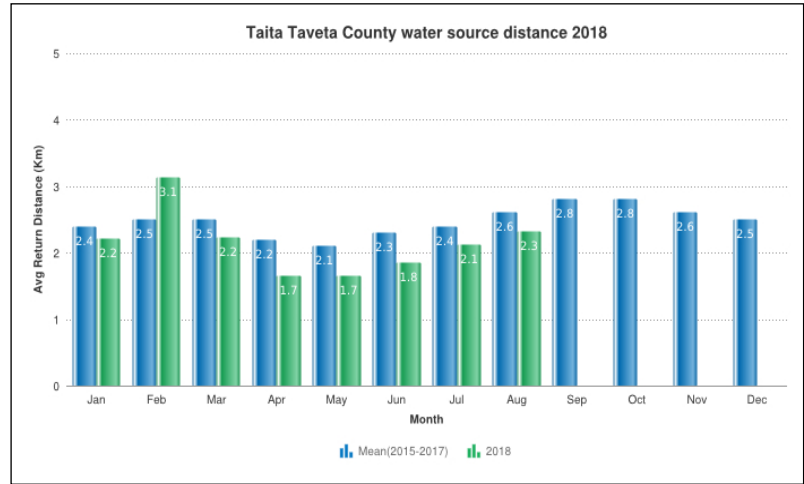
2.2.1 Sources

- The four main sources of water were rivers, springs, boreholes and shallow wells and were relied upon by 36.1, 25, 16.7 and 22.2 percent respectively from community interviews conducted.
- Water levels reduced in the month under review.
- Strategic water sources like Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan water levels have reduced to levels of about 55%.
- Water situation is currently above normal compared to same season last year.



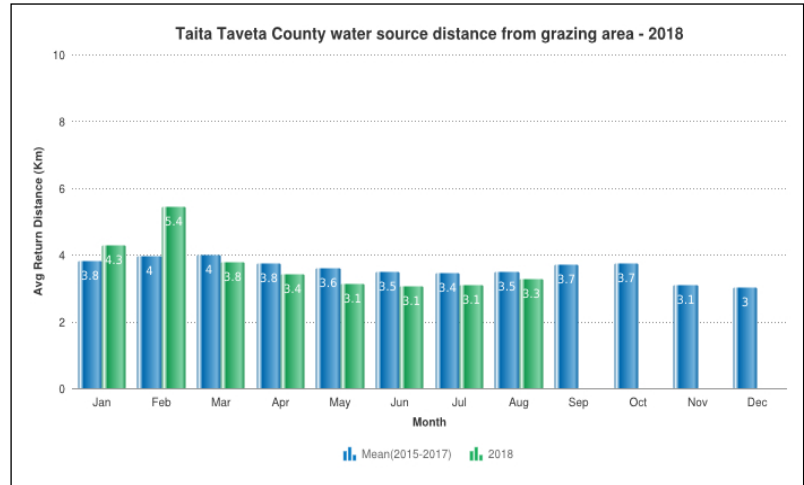
2.2.2 Household Access to Water

- Return distances to fetch water was 2.3 km representing 9.5% increase from the previous month.
- The slight rise was due to drying up of water storage facilities at household level and open water sources like pans with low capacities.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is shorter by 11.5%.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can at water kiosks was at Kshs 3 which is normal at this time of the year.
- Based on community interviews conducted, 8% of respondents treated water through boiling and 7% used aqua tabs.



2.2.3 Livestock Trekking Distance to Water Sources from Grazing Areas

- Return distance to water source from grazing areas has increased to 3.3 km from 3.1 km posted in the previous month.
- This was due to drying up of open water sources near grazing areas.
- In all livelihood zones the frequency of watering for all livestock species was twice per day. This is above normal compared to other similar seasons in the previous years.



3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

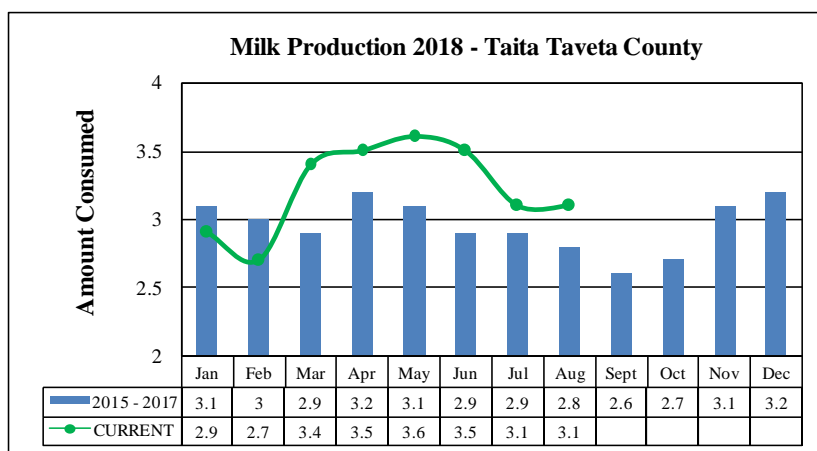
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle, goat and sheep body condition was good.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zones the cattle and goat body condition was good.
- Poultry production was good in the month under review.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No livestock disease outbreaks were reported. However, cases of Rift Valley Fever were confirmed and quarantine issued in areas of Salaita, Mata Ward and Eldoro, Mboghoni Ward, Taveta Sub County.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production per household per day remained the same at 3.1 litres compared the previous month.
- Milk production was above long term average by 10%.
- Milk production was good attributed to increased access to fodder and water. Relatively milk production was high in the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone, Wumingu/ Kishushe Ward where cattle are of better breed and practice zero grazing.
- Average milk price per litre at household level was Ksh 45.00



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

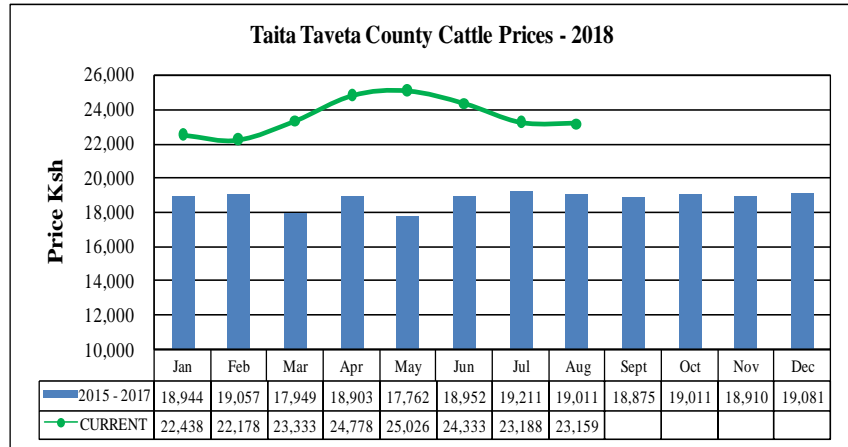
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were thrashing and shelling maize while other were busy sun drying maize.
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone few farmers were harvesting beans and maize.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were harvesting tomatoes, green grams and beans.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

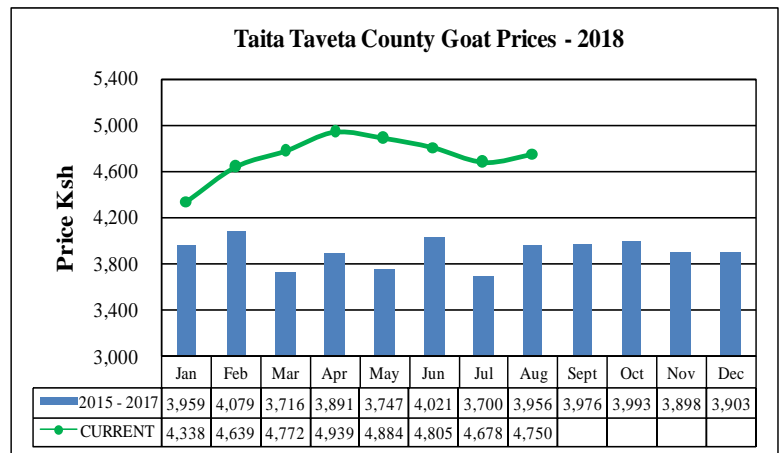
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three year old bull was at Kshs 23,159 compared to the previous month.
- Depicting a downward trend.
- The price was above normal at this time of the year.
- This was attributed to the prevailing good body condition of cattle and uninterrupted market operations.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 21.8%.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

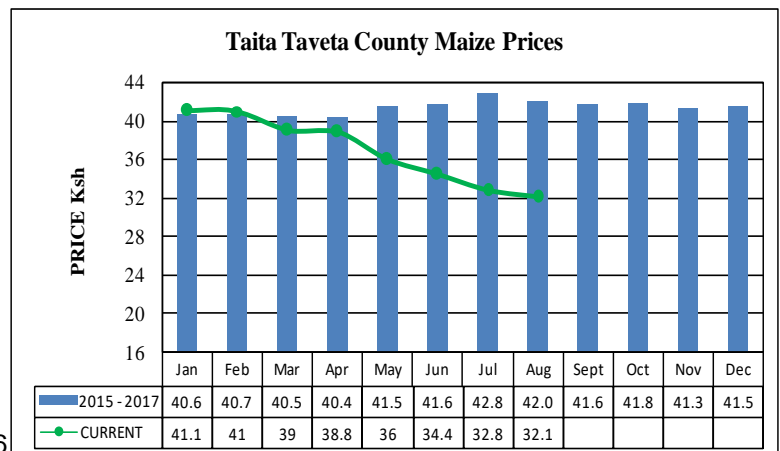
- The average market price of two year goat slightly increased by 1.5 percent to Kshs 4,764 compared to the previous month.
- The price was above normal at this time of the year.
- The above LTM prices could be attributed to good body condition.
- Also, farmers have plenty of food stocks for consumption and selling to cater for expenses rendering drop in supply of goats in the market.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 20.1%.



4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of a kilo of maize decreased to Kshs 32.1 compared to the previous month indicative of 2.1% drop.
- The drop could be due to harvest being experienced in the county that has led to a glut in the markets.
- Across the livelihood zones the price varied with the mixed farming: irrigated /livestock livelihood zone, areas of Challa and Eldoro in Taveta

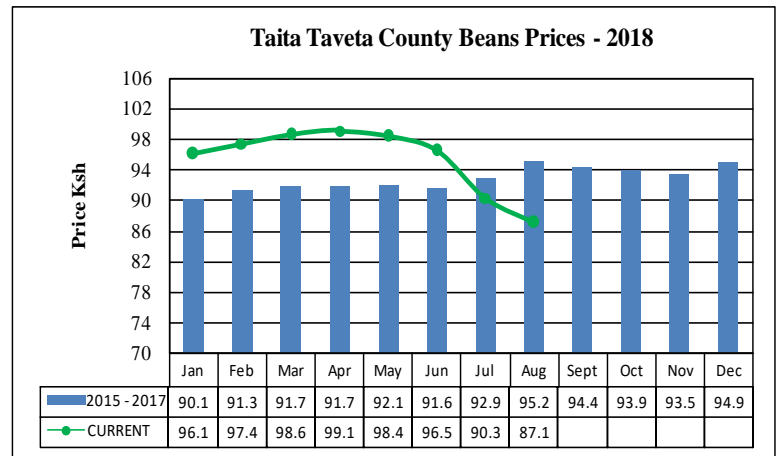


Sub County recording low price of Kshs 25.00. In the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza) reported prices at Kshs 30 per kilo.

- Compared to the long term average the current price was below normal.

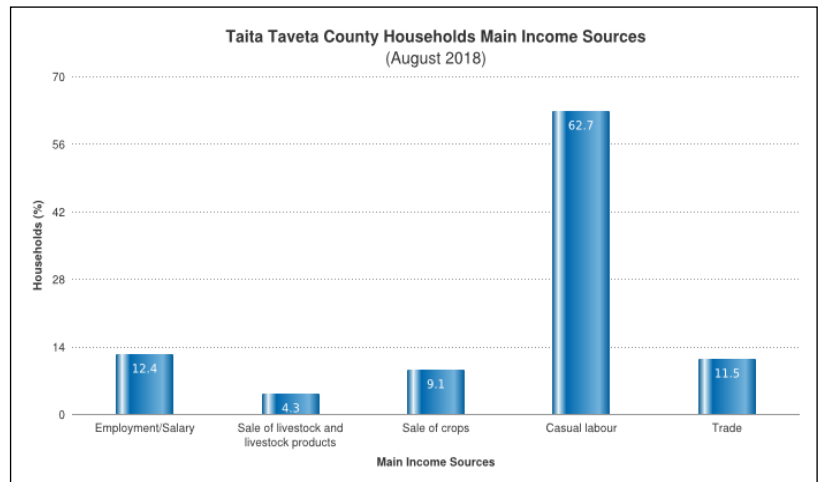
4.2.2 Beans

- Average market price of a kilo of beans dropped to Kshs 87.10
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs 40 - 60 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 70 to 100 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was lower by 8.5%.



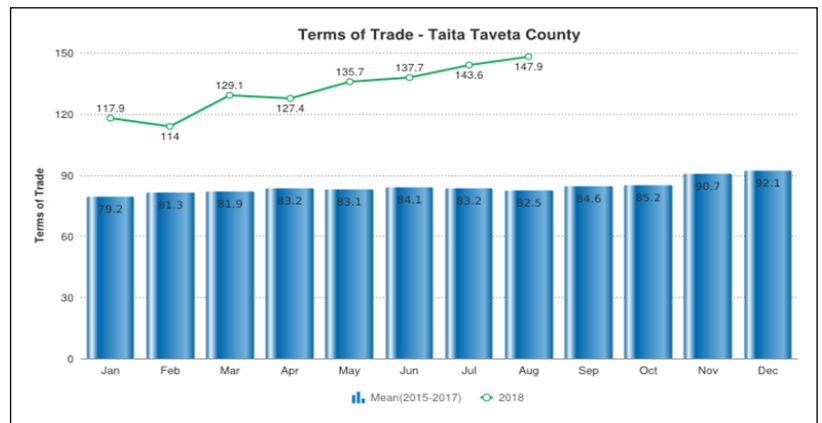
4.3 INCOME

- Household main source of income were casual labour. Others were sale of crops, employment and sale of livestock products at lower proportions.
- Sale of livestock products and crops were on an upward trend compared to previous months.
- Casual labour opportunities were available in the sisal and banana plantations, irrigation schemes, mining sector, herding, ranches, building sites and town centres.



4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

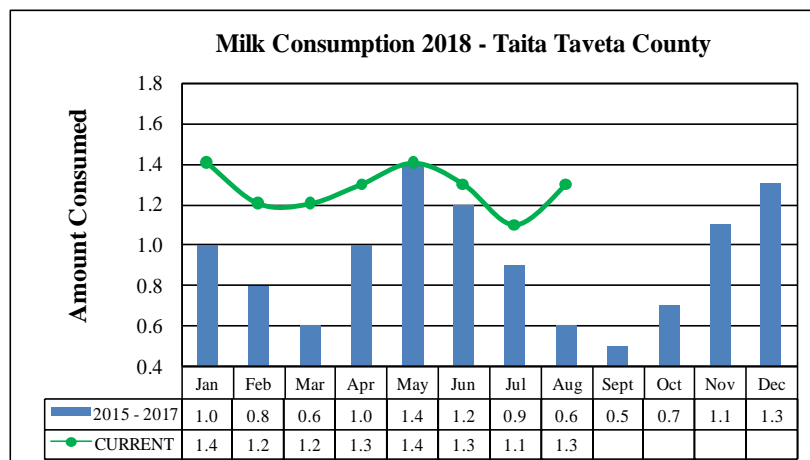
- Terms of trade were favourable and consistently above the LTA.
- Terms of Trade was above the LTM by 79.2 percent.
- The upward trend was attributed to high price of goats above LTM against gradual fall of maize price.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 147.9 kilograms of maize.



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

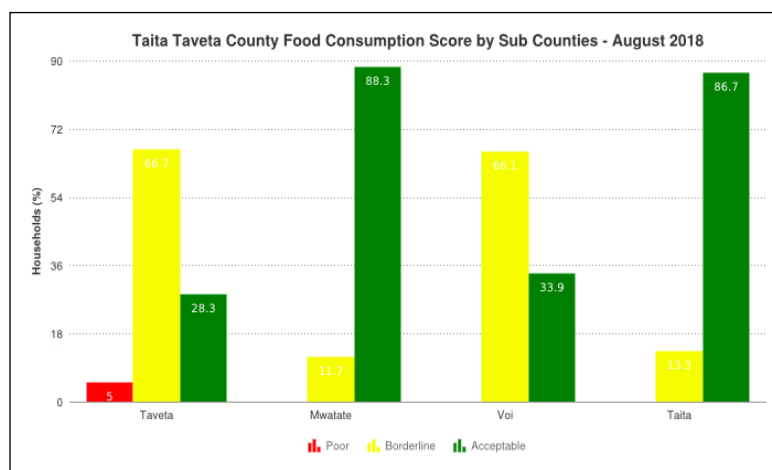
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Milk consumption per household per day rose by 18.2 percent to reach 1.3 litres compared to previous month.
- The quantity of milk consumed was low in Mboghoni and Wumingu Wards at 39.2% and 23.9% respectively while the rest of the milk produced was sold.
- High milk consumption was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/ livestock livelihood zone Ngolia and Kasigau Wards at 87.5% each of the milk produced. This was due to children being on vacation after schools closed.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

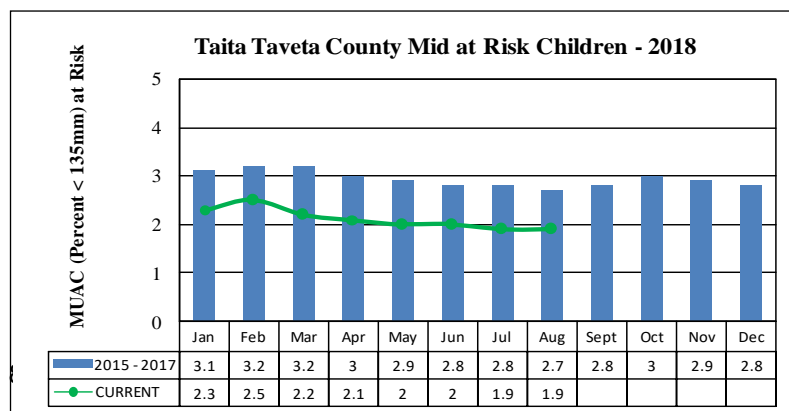
- Approximately 59.3 percent of households interviewed were in the acceptable food consumption score category indicating that they were consuming an acceptable diet in terms of meal frequency, dietary diversity, nutritional value and amount. The proportions of households under borderline food consumption category were 39.5 percent and 1.2 percent respectively.
- All households interviewed reported consumption of grains for seven days, 66 percent of these households consumed pulses for an average of three days in a week while 59 percent consumed vegetables for an average of four days in a week.
- Most households consumed three food groups i.e. maize, pulses and vegetables.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

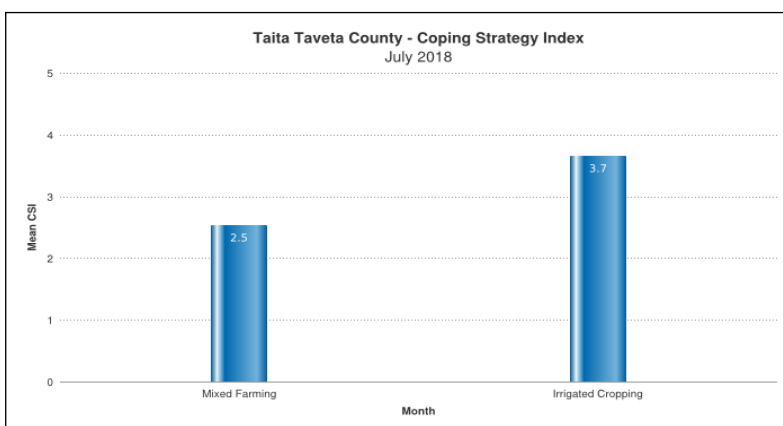
- Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for children below five years at risk of malnutrition were stable at 1.9 percent compared to previous month.
- This was below the long term average by 29.6 percent.



- MUAC levels were low and consistently below the long term mean.

5.3.2 Coping Strategies

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 2.41 compared to 2.68 posted in the previous month.
- This slight decrease demonstrates households were employing less coping strategies compared to previous month.
- Approximately 16.3 percent of sampled households engaged in reduction of meals for two to three days in a week while 20.6 percent reduced portion of meals for two to four days in a week.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Activities	Implementers
Water		
Protection of springs	Fencing and environmental conservation of Ngangu, Ngulu and Mwanginyi springs (10,000 beneficiaries)	Dept of W&I
Lining of canals	Kimala irrigation canal lining 100 farmers to benefit	
Pipeline extension	Koenyi – Kisambinyi water project(15,000 beneficiaries) = Kshs 27M	KRCS/ Dept of W&I
	Maungu – Buguta water project (18,000 beneficiaries) = Kshs 38M	
	Kaloleni water project (13,000 beneficiaries) = Kshs 33M	
Multi-Sectoral		
Contingency Planning	County Contingency Plan updated	NDMA - EDE DRMC SP6
Social Protection		
Cash transfer	600 families in Mata and Mboghoni Wards benefited with cash = 3.6M	World Vision
School feeding	150 students assisted in Mboghoni Ward = Kshs 130,000	
Chakula Kwa Jamii	Cash disbursement of Kshs 21.23M to 9,230 beneficiaries	National Government

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/ Conflict/ Human Displacement

- Presence of herds of camels observed near community settlement areas of Sagalla and Mwatate Wards.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Food stocks at household level are expected to last for at least three months. This is expected to maintain low prices of cereals and pulses.
- Pasture and browse is expected to cater for livestock until onset of short rains forecasted in fourth week of October. Availability of water, pasture and browse at shorter distances is expected to promote livestock development and enhance livestock production.
- In a few hotspots in the county drying up of open water sources with low holding capacities will culminate to increased livestock trekking distances to water sources from grazing areas. These areas are Kishushe, Ndara and Mgeno.
- An upsurge of human wildlife conflicts is expected due to drying up of water pans in the park.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Post harvest management.
- Fodder improvement and conservation.
- Livestock disease surveillance due to influx of camels in the county.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.

Public Health and Nutrition

- Deworming for both adults and children.
- Household level water treatment.